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RULES
AND
REGULATIONS,

ENTERED INTO BY

THE MEMBERS

OF THE

Harleston Association

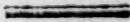
FOR

PROSECUTING FELONS.



Burg St. Edmund's:

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1799.

RULES

1853



Harleston Association.

1799.

AT a meeting of the principal inhabitants of Redenhall with Harleston, and parishes adjoining, held at the Crown Inn in that town, Oct. 10th, 1786, for the purpose of raising a fund to prosecute felons, it was agreed, that an association should be formed, and various rules and regulations were then agreed upon. As the rules and regulations then made have since been found insufficient, a committee was appointed, Nov. 2, 1797, to amend and alter the old laws, and frame new ones. At a subsequent quarterly meeting the rules and regulations so altered and amended, and the new laws added, were read, approved, and ordered to be printed for the use of the members.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

I. **THE** association agrees to prosecute all and every person or persons who shall be guilty of any crime or misdemeanor affecting the persons, habitations, or property of any member ;—that is to say, any person or persons guilty of burglary, robbery, or assault with intent to rob, cutting and carrying away any wood or timber, robbing any barn, orchard, or garden, burning or setting fire to any dwelling-house, out-house, stack or rick of hay or corn, sending any threatening letter, stealing or purloining any horse, mare, or gelding, sheep, hogs, fowls, or other live-stock, gate-irons, plough-irons, utensils, or implements of husbandry, or buying and receiving the same, knowing them to be stolen.

II. Every member of this association against whom any such offence shall have been committed, shall, as soon as possible, give notice to the Treasurer for the time being, (or, in case of his absence, to the Secretary for the time being,) and, in conjunction with him, take proper steps for discovering, apprehending, and bringing to justice any person or persons guilty of the before-recited crimes. And in case any member shall refuse or neglect to give such notice with all convenient speed, or to prosecute to conviction such offender or offenders, within six calendar months from the time of discovering such offender or offenders, then every such member shall forfeit and pay to the Treasurer the sum of ten pounds, to be by him applied in prosecuting, if then practicable, such offender or offenders, in the same manner as such member ought to have done; and if not, then to fall into the common stock of the society. And further, in case any member of this association shall compound any felony, such member shall be excluded the benefit of

his subscription, shall not be permitted to subscribe again, and shall be prosecuted at the expence of the society.

III. That a reward be offered by the association for the apprehending and bringing to justice any person or persons who shall have committed any of the above-named offences against any of its members ; the reward to be proportioned to the offence, but in no case to exceed ten pounds.

IV. That when more persons than one shall be concerned in apprehending and bringing to punishment any offender or offenders, the reward shall be divided amongst such persons so concerned and claiming the same, at the discretion of the subscribers, at the next quarterly meeting after the conviction of the offender or offenders ; but if such offender or offenders, so apprehended, shall not be convicted, the persons concerned in apprehending and endeavouring to bring them to justice, shall be allowed such reward for their

exertions as the subscribers shall then think proper.

V. That all reasonable expences, incurred by apprehending and prosecuting offenders against any of the subscribers to this association, shall be paid out of the common stock, a bill thereof being laid before the next quarterly meeting of the association, if then allowed, and signed by the chairman of the meeting: provided that no subscriber shall be allowed more than 7s. 6d. per day for his expences, including horse-hire; and provided, further, that the expence shall not exceed 1s. per day for the maintenance of each offender during his being in custody.

VI. That all such charges, expences, and rewards, as aforesaid, shall be paid by the subscribers by a general contribution, in proportion to each man's occupation, to be ascertained by the poor-rate in each and every parish wherein any messuages, lands, tenements, tithes, or hereditaments, respectively farmed, occupied, or gathered

by the subscribers, shall be situate, lying, arising, renewing, or being. And if any subscriber shall deliver in a false account of his occupation, or fraudulently conceal any part or parts thereof, he shall forfeit and pay to the Treasurer for the time being, (to be applied for the use of the association,) the sum of five pounds, if the same shall appear to be wilfully done, and with a fraudulent intent; which shall be left to the determination of a majority of the members present, at the next quarterly meeting after the same shall be discovered. And in case any subscriber shall add to or increase his occupation, then he shall give notice thereof in writing to the Treasurer, at the next quarterly meeting, under the like penalty.

VII. That all rewards allowed by act of parliament for the apprehending and discovering of offenders, or any other rewards, penalties, and forfeitures, received by any member of this association, also all allowance made by the judge of assize, or justices of quarter session, shall be paid

into the hands of the Treasurer, for the benefit of the society in general; and every subscriber is requested to be attentive in his application for the above-named allowance, rewards, penalties, and forfeitures.

VIII. That any member or members, in future, having any horse, mare, or gelding stolen from him, her, or them, and the same cannot be found within six months after such loss, such member or members shall produce, at the next quarterly meeting after the expiration of the six months, five of his nearest neighbouring subscribers, from such parish where the said horse, mare, or gelding was stolen from. But if five subscribers do not reside in such parish, then five of his reputable neighbours shall ascertain the value of such horse, mare, or gelding; and one of them should attend such next quarterly meeting, and produce such valuation to the members then and there present, or to a committee of them; who shall, if they find it reasonable, order payment of

one-half part, to be paid by the Treasurer; provided that such valuation shall not exceed the sum of twenty pounds for any horse, mare, or gelding, stolen as aforesaid.

IX. That if any horse, mare, gelding, or any stock, goods, chattels, or effects whatsoever, be stolen, taken away, or destroyed, that shall not be (*bona fide*) the property of any member or members of this association; or if any whitester or other trader, who shall or may be a member, shall have any cloth, yarn, tow, stock, goods, chattels, or effects whatsoever, taken, stolen, carried away, or destroyed, from off his, her, or their premises, not *bona fide* his, hers, or their own property, but sent to him, her, or them, in the common way of trade, that then this society shall not be accountable for any such loss or losses, nor for the costs and charges to be incurred in prosecuting for the same.

X. And it is further agreed, That every new member subscribing to these articles,

shall within one month from the date of his or her admission, deliver in an account of the sums he pays to the poor-rate, according to Rule VI. and pay into the hands of the Treasurer the sum of one penny in the pound for establishing a fund; no person being rated at less than 6ol. And every new subscriber shall pay the sum of five shillings over and above his assessment, or any further sum, according to the state of the fund at the time of his becoming a member.

XI. That whenever the stock in hand shall not be sufficient, in the opinion of a majority of the next quarterly meeting, for carrying into effect the intentions of the society, the Treasurer shall be authorized to advertize in some one or other of the public newspapers, or otherwise giving ten days notice at least, for the members to pay such fresh subscription as shall be found necessary: and no member shall be further benefited by this association, in case his or her subscription money

shall be unpaid twenty days after the expiration of the said ten days:

XII. That the general meetings of the subscribers shall be at the Crown Inn in Redenhall with Harleston aforesaid, four times in the year; that is to say, at six o'clock in the afternoon, upon the Monday next before every quarter sessions to be held at Norwich, in and for the county of Norfolk, (or oftener, if necessary, upon notice given to the Treasurer for the time being, signed by six subscribers,) except at the Christmas annual meeting, when they are to meet at twelve o'clock at noon: and that every member who shall absent himself from such annual meeting, shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence; one shilling whereof shall go to the landlord of the said inn, towards the expence of the dinner, and the remainder shall be applied to increase the fund. And further, that every member who is absent at seven o'clock in the winter, and eight o'clock in the summer, at any of the quarterly

meetings, shall forfeit sixpence for each absence for the same purpose; and in default of payment thereof, after proper notice from the Treasurer or Secretary, such member to be excluded all benefit of his subscription. And further, the majority of the members present, at any quarterly meeting, may expel any obnoxious member, without dissolving the society.

XIII. That a Treasurer shall be chosen annually at the Christmas meeting, who shall have power to nominate any person to act for him in his absence; and that the having been elected to this office one year, or oftener, shall not disqualify any person from being chosen again; and that Mr. John Kerrich be Treasurer for this year.

XIV. That the Treasurer's accounts be audited once in every year, viz. at the Christmas annual meeting.

XV. That the Treasurer shall keep a book for entering the names and places of abode of the subscribers hereto, with the

sums by them paid; which book shall be always kept at the Treasurer's house, for the inspection of the subscribers.

XVI. That a Secretary shall be chosen annually at the Christmas meeting; that the salary be two guineas per annum; and that Samuel Copping, jun. be Secretary for this year.

XVII. That no member of this society shall be allowed the expences of an attorney to conduct any prosecution ordered by this association, either at assizes or sessions, without he has previously taken the opinion of the members whether the attendance of an attorney is necessary or not.

XVIII. That all determinations of the association shall be by ballot; a majority to determine: but no new rules to be made, the present altered, or members expelled, without one-third, at least, of the subscribers are present.

XIX. And lastly, That if the majority of the subscribers hereto, shall not think proper to continue these articles, then the money which shall be in the Treasurer's hands, (after paying all expences incident to the association,) shall, by such Treasurer, his executors, or administrators, be paid to, and be equally divided amongst, such subscribers as shall then be living, share and share alike.

FINIS.



